

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

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FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9906

INFO AMEMBASSY BERN

AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

AMEMBASSY LIMA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO

AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

AMEMBASSY ASUNCION

AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO

AMCONSUL SAO PAULO

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRASILIA 4993

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG, TECH, MNUC, AR, BR

SUBJECT: BRAZILIAN CONGRESSMAN SAYS THAT ARGENTINA HAS THE
ATOMIC BOMB

LONDON PASS VEST

1. SUMMARY - TWO BRAZILIAN NEWSPAPERS CARRIED A STORY ON
JUNE 19 QUOTING BRAZILIAN CONGRESSMAN MACIEL (MDB-RIO) AS
SAYING THAT AN UNIDENTIFIED ARGENTINE CONGRESSMAN TOLD HIM
THAT ARGENTINA HAS THE ATOMIC BOMB AND MORE THAN 150 KILO-
GRAMS OF PLUTONIUM ORIGINATING FROM THE ATUCHA REACTOR.
END SUMMARY.

2. JUNE 19 EDITIONS OF O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO AND JORNAL DE
BRASIL CARRIED A REPORT THAT DEPUTY LYSANEAS MACIEL
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(MDB-RIO) SAID ON JUNE 18 AT A MEETING OF THE COMMISSION

OF MINES AND ENERGY OF THE CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES THAT (QUOTING FROM THE STORY):

"ARGENTINA ALREADY HAS THE ATOMIC BOMB AND IS AWAITING ONLY CONGRESSIONAL AUTHORIZATION TO SHOW THE WORLD ITS TOTAL DOMINATION OF NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGY. ARGENTINA EXPECTS SHORTLY TO BE THE EIGHTH COUNTRY TO HAVE ACCESS TO THE CLOSED CLUB OF NUCLEAR POWERS."

3. ACCORDING TO THE STORIES, MACIEL SAID THAT, "THIS INFORMATION WAS CONFIRMED IN A RECENT PARLIAMENTARY MEETING IN GENEVA BY AN ARGENTINE DEPUTY WHO DID NOT WANT TO BE IDENTIFIED." THE ARGENTINE DEPUTY REPORTEDLY SAID THAT "THIS COUNTRY POSSESSES MORE THAN 150 KILOGRAMS OF PLUTONIUM (ONLY EIGHT KILOGRAMS ARE NECESSARY TO MAKE A BOMB) ORIGINATING FROM THE OPERATION OF THE ATUCHA NUCLEAR REACTOR, WHICH USES NATURAL URANIUM AND IS COOLED BY HEAVY WATER." ACCORDING TO THE JORNAL DE BRASILIA STORY, THE ARGENTINE DEPUTY TOLD MACIEL THAT ARGENTINA IS ADVISING URUGUAY, PARAGUAY, BOLIVIA, PERU AND CHILE ABOUT NUCLEAR ACTIVITY.

4. COMMENT - IN INFORMAL CONVERSATION ON JUNE 18, AN ARGENTINE MILITARY SOURCE TOLD DATT THAT, IN REFERENCE TME ATOMIC BOMB, "WE'VE GOT IT." IN LIGHT OF INFORMATION HERE FROM WASHINGTON AND BUENOS AIRES, EMBASSY DATT PLACE LITTLE CREDENCE IN THIS CLAIM, AS WELL AS IN THE MACIEL STATEMENT.
CRIMMINS

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